THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 40.00 crores has been allocated during the current financial year and Rs. 42.5 crores in the next financial year for promotion campaigns in the oevrseas market which includes a campaign to counter the adverse impact of recent disturbances.

(c) Tourist arrivals during the last three years were:—

1990—17,07,158

1991—16,77,508

1992—18,67,651

This shows an increase of 11.3 per cent in 1992 over the previous year.

(d) Promotion of Tourism is a continuous process. The Department of Tourism with the State Governments and travel trade jointly popularise and promote tourism through publicity literature, films, audio-visuals, fairs, seminars and other measures. The official TV media is also used for the purpose.

Special reduced Airfare for low paid labourers working abroad

3923. SHRI M. A BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the fact about special reduced airfare for low paid labourers working abroad as is being done in some countries:

(b) whether the Air India proposes to introduce such special reduced air fare for low paid Indians working abroad, especially in the Gulf region:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons and justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) A representation was received by the Government proposing that Indian workers in the Gulf countries should be allowed a rebate of at least 25 per cent in air fares to India, once in two years on the national carriers The proposal was not considered feasible due to difficulties in prescribing and enforcing definite eligibility criteria for availing of such discount.

Religious Tourism in the Country

3924. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to organise and encourage religious tourism in different regions;

(b) if so, what are the details of the action plan worked out and publicity given to elicit public participation;

(c) whether Government are planning to start Bharat Darshan special trains from Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and New Delhi under various package tours; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

AIR fare anomalies in Kerala Gulf Sector

3925. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indians working in Gulf countries have been complaining/submitting representations to